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30/1/06

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your letter 25/1 and for the attachments. These are really welcome. That is not false praise, because of the 30 addressee names on my letter of request dated 17/11/05, 7 have responded, and of these 4, including you, have offered material. Common thread of the other 3 was “Aw gee George, that was over 60 years ago”. At Sunday School 100 years ago it seems, I was taught “Be thankful for small mercies”.

However, thinking positive, I have drafted up 11 articles as follows: Introduction; Early Days; Radar types in summary; A272 in some detail; HMAS Shropshire; HMAS Murchison; HMAS Bataan; Service personnel – Bailey Boys and HO RMs; Ancilliary devices such as DF, IFF, Radio Altimeter, Radio Beacon, LORAN; and for the uninitiated, a layman’s explanation of Time Domain and Doppler Radar.

Last week I sent out letters of request to 15 more of the “old guard”. Also, the page 9 article in the current RM Newsletter might stir a few stumps into action. So I am optimistic that by end February I might have material for another 5 or so articles. After that I’ll call it a day & leave it to the NHS to decide what they want to use.

That then will leave a gap in my life, something I’ll need to fill. I get plenty of physical activity every day, and plenty of social contact, but for balance I need a daily dose of intellectual activity. Attempting the Sydney Morning Herald Quick and Cryptic crosswords is not enough, and anyway I only complete one or the other out of every 30 or so I tackle.”

You kindly offered additional help. How do you feel about taking from me hard copy of everything which I will be producing, with a view to offering critique? Critique would include appropriateness or otherwise of the topics, syntax and general presentation, where possible a check on facts. In a few weeks from now I’ll give you a phone call, and if you are willing, I’ll put a package in the mail to you. But don’t hesitate to say “No thankyou chum”.

Cheers,

George.

PS, any chance we will see you at the Hobart reunion?